(a) whether any representations have been received from foreign companies to make existing regulations in the food processing industries sector in consonance with the rules in force in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Grass-Root Level Planning and Implementation in Meghalaya

1845. SHRI ONWARD. L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that grass-root level planning and implementation has been reduced to the minimum extent in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, when Gvoernment issued instructions to transfer more and more schemes from the Block Level to the District Rural Development Agencies in Meghalaya; and

(c) whether .Government are proposing to instruct the State Government to open up more grass-root level planning and implementation by the Block Development Committees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Government of India have been emphasising on different states to take planning to the grass-root level so as to ensure involvement of people in the gigantic task of development. The NDC Committee on Micro-level planning had also emphasised to transfer sufficient resoruces to sub-state level planning bodies. It is for different State Governments including Government of Meghalaya to confer suitable administrative and financial powers to different bodies involved in the task of planning at different levels. Government of India have not issued any instructions to transfer more schemes from the Block level to the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA). Specific details regarding the delegation of powers by different State Governments to sub-district level planning bodies are not monitored by the Planning Commission.

Losses of State Electricity Boards

1846. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the losses suffered by State Electricity Boards due to power thefts, bridery and corruption every year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) T&D losses for All India Utilities during 1994-95 were 20.85% (Provisional) of the power available. A number of steps have been initiated to reduce T&D losses which include improving Transmission & Distribution systems, install capacitors for reactive compensation, carry out energy audits to pinpoint system elements responsible for high losses, thefts etc. Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offense. May other steps to streamline the working of SEBs including restructuring them have also been initiated in several states.

Multi-pronged strategy to check infiltrations in J&K

1847. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-pronged strategy has been adopted by the BSF along the borders in J&K to check infiltrations:

(b) if so, the details of the strategy adopted and the number of infiltrators nabbed during the last six months; and

(c) to what extent the new strategy would strengthen the position at borders to check any kind of infiltrations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the unabated efforts of Pakistan to infiltrate trained and armed terrorists across the LOO Border into Jammu and Kashmir, continuous vigilance is being maintained by the Security Forces to check and contain the same. Various arrangements have been made for this purpose, including intensive patrolling, provision and use of surveillance equipments, including night vision devices etc., deployment of forces in the vulnerable areas both on the LOOBorder and in the hinterland, setting up of Village Defence Committee in some of the sensitive regions near the border, and close and continuous coordination between all concerned security and intelligence agencies, etc. The arrangements are being kept under regular review to deal with the situation and development on a continuing basis.

According to available information, 68 infiltrators were killed and 267 were apprehended by the BSF troops in the area of their deployment on the border during the last six months.

Handing over of ONGC oil fields to private consortia

1848. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain oil fields discovered and developed by the ONGC have been handed over to private consortia without any compensation to the ONGC, resulting in huge loss to the ONGC;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these oil fields have been handed over to the private consortia at the behest of the World Bank;

(c) if so, the details thereof, stating the loss incurred by the ONGC as a result thereof; and

(d) the reasons for handing over these oil fields to private consortia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Discovered oil fields have been offered for development by joint ventures in pursuance of a policy decision of the Government. These fields have been awarded through international competitive bidding. In the bids, signature and production bonuses are biddable items and proceeds on these accounts go to ONGC. In addition, wherever the ecnomics of the projects so permits, there has been separate compensation for past costs incurred to ONGC.

(d) The reasons for offering these fields for private participation include:

(i) Marginal economics of some of the fields.

(ii) Low reserves of the small fields offered.

(iii) To augment total investment in exploration and development.

(iv) To help augment the oil/gas production by way of quickly putting these fields on production.

(v) For the application of enhanced oil recovery processes.

(vi) To induct the latest managerial and technological practices.

भूकंपीय प्रयोगशाला स्थापित किया जाना

1849. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या महाराष्ट्र सरकार और अन्य राज्य सरकारों ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से विभिन्न राज्यों में भूकम्प की